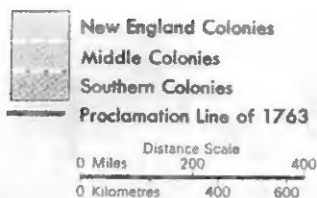


# THE THIRTEEN COLONIES IN 1763

This map shows the 13 British colonies that became the United States. Their population grew to nearly 2 million in a little more than 150 years after a small band of Englishmen established the first permanent settlement at Jamestown.



(Reserved for the Indians by the Proclamation of 1763)



**Land Ownership.** Many settlers came to America because they were offered land free or at low cost. In those days, owning land gave a man a feeling of independence, and the promise of a good life for his children. Land ownership made a man a *freeholder*. A freeholder had certain rights in the community, generally including the right to vote.

Land was distributed in various ways in the colonies. Under English law, all the land belonged to the king. The king issued permits, called *charters*, which allowed individuals or companies to colonize a certain area. Then each *proprietor* (individual owner) or company distributed the land to settlers. In the early colonization of Virginia, the company gave each settler 100 acres (40 hectares) of free land to develop. Later, the king took back the company's charter and established direct royal control over the colony. Under royal control, each new settler received some free land, usually 50 acres (20 hectares), and could purchase more for only five shillings per acre (0.4 hectare). Anyone who paid the transportation of a new settler got 50 acres free.

In the New England Colonies, where settlements were called townships, the land was first assigned to each township. The township officials then divided the land among the settlers. Each settler got enough land near the village green for a house, garden, and cow shed. He also had a strip of farmland on the edge of the village, where he raised corn and other crops. A settler had the right to sell his land, or to buy more with the consent of the township officials.

In most of the other colonies, early settlers started as freeholders. Proprietors or companies gave a settler some land, and sold him more at bargain prices. In some colonies, individuals got large tracts of land by promising to develop the property. These promoters then brought

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Advertising helped sell shares of the stock companies that developed England's early settlements in the New World.

## THE THIRTEEN COLONIES AND THE DATES OF THEIR FIRST PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS

Virginia	1607	Delaware	1638
Massachusetts	1620	Pennsylvania	1643
New Hampshire	1623	North Carolina	c. 1653
New York	1624	New Jersey	1660
Connecticut	1633	South Carolina	1670
Maryland	1634	Georgia	1733
Rhode Island	1636		

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